



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 5, 2003

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,  
MICHAEL KULSTAD  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600, (718) 422-1870

**COLOMBIAN DRUG KINGPIN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT  
TO SENDING MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF COCAINE INTO NEW YORK CITY**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that FERNANDO HENAO-MONTOYA, the supervisor of a Colombian narcotics-trafficking organization responsible for sending ton-quantity cocaine loads from South America to New York City, pled guilty in Manhattan federal court today to his participation in cocaine trafficking.

According to the Indictment, the Government's recitation of the evidence at the plea proceeding, and court papers filed by the Government, FERNANDO HENAO-MONTOYA is the younger brother of ORLANDO HENAO-MONTOYA, now deceased, and ARCHANGEL HENAO-MONTOYA, two notorious bosses of Colombian narcotics-trafficking organizations responsible for the importation of thousands of kilograms of cocaine from South America into the United States during the 1990s.

It was charged that by 1993 or 1994, FERNANDO HENAO-MONTOYA himself became directly involved in the family business - the importation and distribution of ton-quantity cocaine loads into and within the United States. The charge to which FERNANDO HENAO-MONTOYA pled guilty today involved a 5,000-kilogram cocaine load sent from Colombia via Venezuela and Mexico to New York City in late 1998 or early 1999. After the cocaine was distributed, FERNANDO HENAO-MONTOYA instructed a trusted lieutenant of his organization to travel to Mexico and then to New York to supervise the collection of his \$25 million share of the proceeds from the 5,000-kilogram cocaine load, according to the Government. FERNANDO HENAO-MONTOYA's lieutenant carried out the order -- collecting millions of dollars of cocaine proceeds from the streets of Manhattan -- and arranged for the delivery of the narcotics proceeds back to FERNANDO HENAO-MONTOYA in Colombia, it was charged.

FERNANDO HENAO-MONTOYA's conviction today stems from a three-and-one-half-year-long investigation led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in conjunction with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, which is comprised of law enforcement officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Customs Service, the Internal Revenue Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the New York City

Police Department.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Assistant United States Attorneys BOYD M. JOHNSON III and STEVEN R. GLASER are in charge of the prosecution.

03-23

###